

STARTM
comics

DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH



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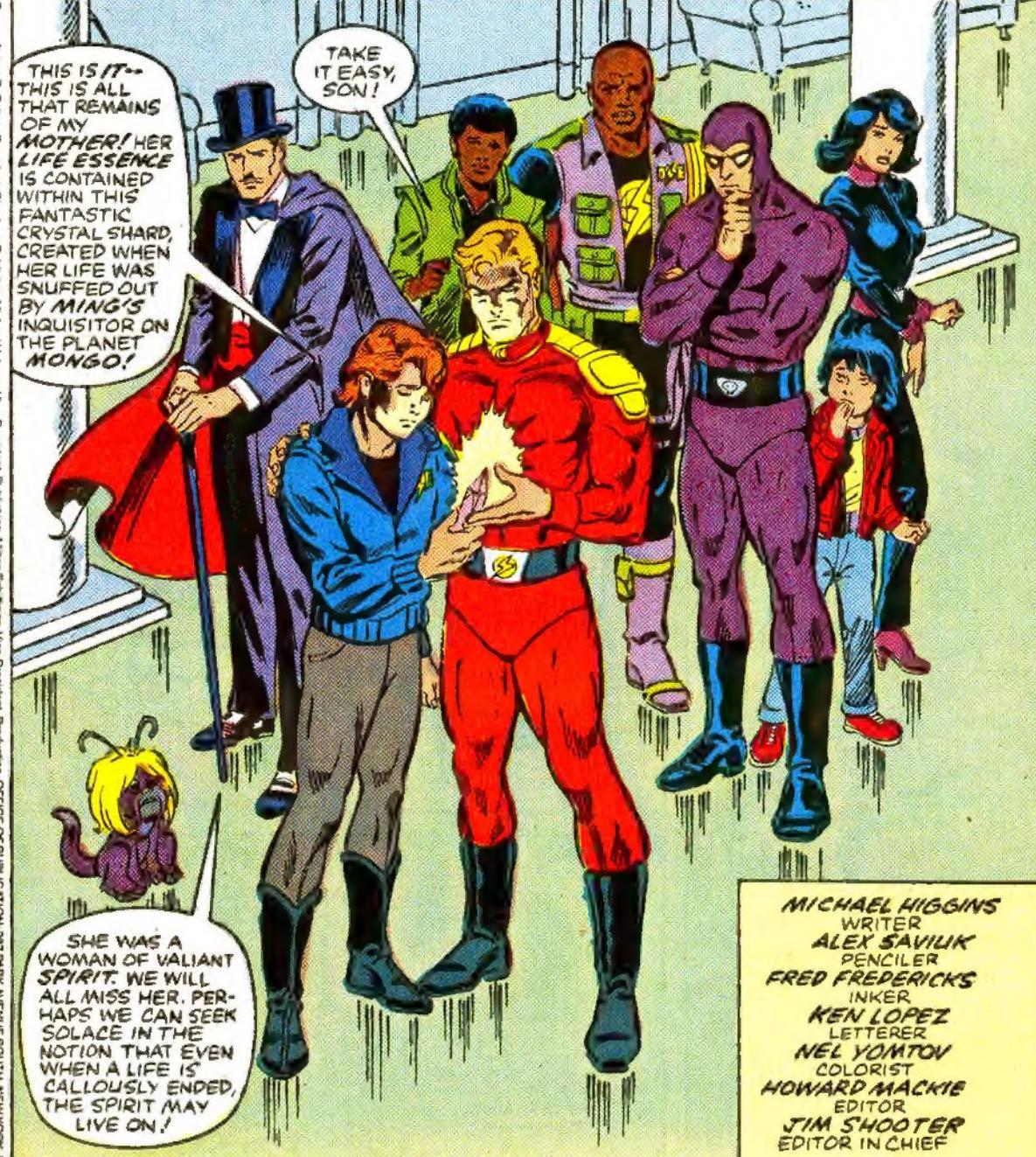


SAVIOUX & FREDRICKS





CREATION



YOUR PLAN
IS BRILLIANT,
RICK
GORPON!

THANK YOU,
MANDRAKE.

AS YOU KNOW,
I WAS ALREADY
WORKING ON THE
CONSTRUCTION OF
AN ADVANCED
COMPUTER SYS-
TEM WHEN...
WHEN...

WELL, ANYWAY, I'VE
MADE SOME CHANGES--
HAD TO MAKE SOME
ADJUSTMENTS...

...BUT THIS COMPUTER WILL
BE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED EVER
SEEN ON EARTH. IT WILL HAVE A
HUMAN ESSENCE AT ITS CENTER.

NOT JUST ANY HUMAN--BUT THE
SPIRIT OF THE MOST COURAGEOUS,
LOVING WOMAN IN ALL THE
GALAXY... MY WIFE, DALE!

DESPITE HIS STRONG
FRONT, FLASH GORDON
IS OBVIOUSLY DISTRAUGHT...
AND WHO CAN BLAME
HIM?

"HIS WIFE WAS SUBJECTED TO A
HIDEOUS MENTAL PROBE--
ONE THAT LITERALLY TORE HER
MIND FROM HER BODY.

"AND WITH ALL OUR POWER--ALL
OUR SKILLS--THE DEFENDERS
OF THE EARTH WERE POWERLESS
TO SAVE HER!"

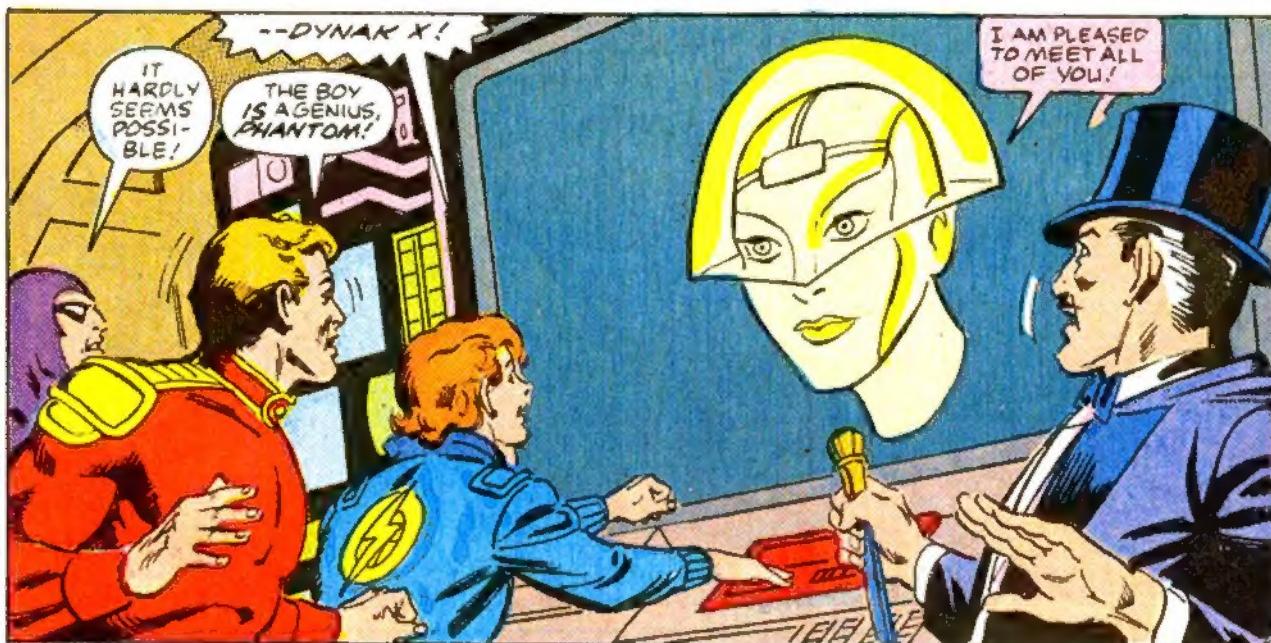
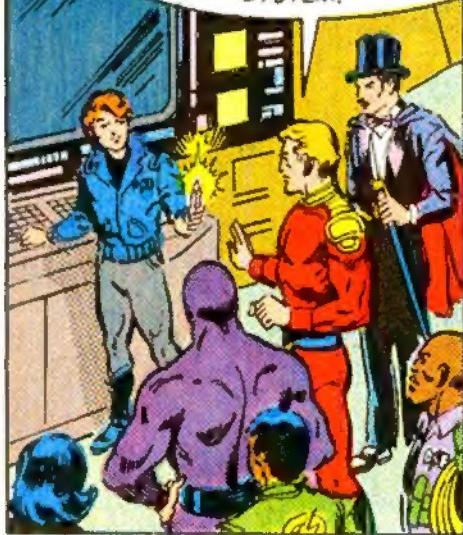


DAD...
DAD!
WOULD YOU LIKE
TO PLACE THE
CRYSTAL INTO THE
COMPUTER SYSTEM?
AFTER ALL...

NO, RICK. THIS IS YOUR
CREATION! YOU SHOULD BE
THE ONE TO ACTIVATE THE
SYSTEM!

OKAY-- HERE
GOES! IT WON'T
BE LONG
NOW!

A LITTLE FINE TUNING AND
EVERYTHING SHOULD BE
SET!



MEANWHILE, IN THE UNDERWATER THRONE ROOM OF MING THE MERCILESS,
HIDDEN IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS...

MY PLAN TO CONQUER
PLANET EARTH CANNOT
PROCEED UNTIL THIS BASE
IS COMPLETED, OCTON!
REPORT ON THE WORK IN
PROGRESS.

YES, YOUR
MAJESTY!

IF YOU WILL TURN YOUR
ATTENTION TO THE VIEWSCREEN
YOU WILL FIND THAT ICE
ROBOTS ARE WORKING EVEN
NOW, USING LASERS TO CARVE
DOORWAYS INTO THE ICY CLIFFS.

BRIDGES ARE UNDER CON-
STRUCTION THROUGH SO-
PHISTICATED TECHNOLOGICAL
MEANS...

A SCHEMATIC WILL
ILLUSTRATE...

ENOUGH!
I CAN
CLEARLY SEE
WHAT IS
HAPPENING!

ICE STATION EARTH MUST BE
COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL IF WE
ARE TO EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH
FLASH GORDON AND HIS WRETCHED
ALLIES.

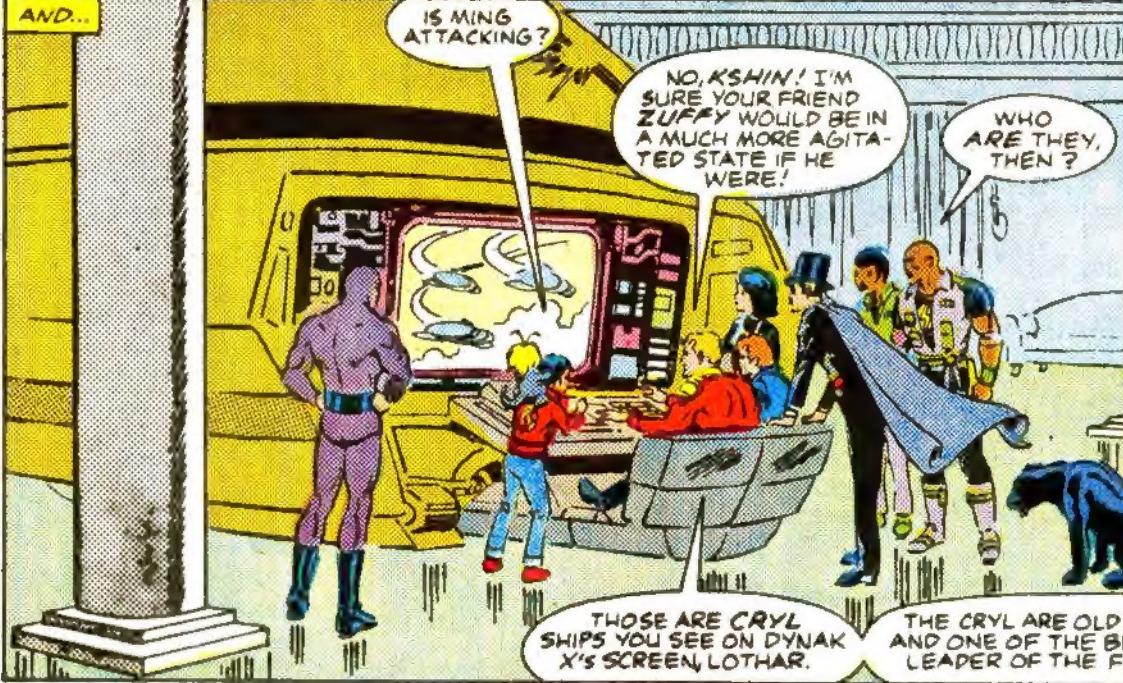
WORK IS MOVING
MUCH TOO SLOWLY...
AND WE HAVE
ALREADY WASTED
ENOUGH TIME!

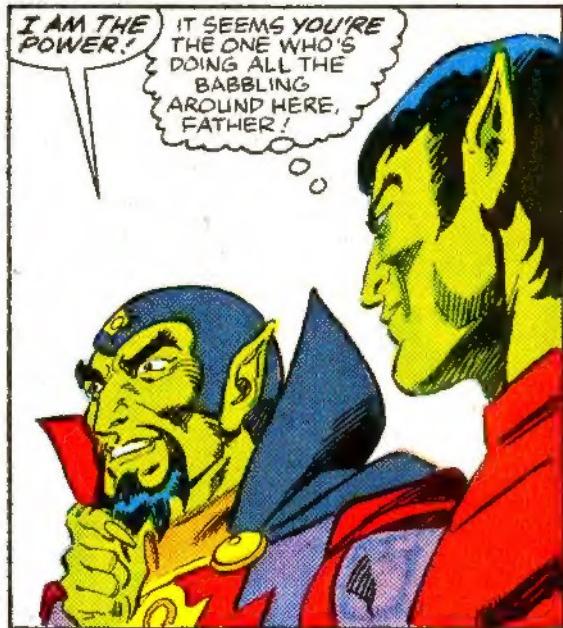
EH?
WHAT IS THIS
NEW INTERRUPTION?

A FLEET OF ENEMY
SHIPS IS ENTERING
EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE,
SIRE.

VRETOON

OCTON, INFORM GARAX
OF THIS DEVELOPMENT
AT ONCE!





THESE DEFENDERS ACTUALLY SEEM TO WORRY YOU! THIS IS INDEED A RARE MOMENT, BUT NO MATTER! YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED, DEAR FATHER. THE RULE OF PRINCE KRO-TAN IS AT HAND!

YOUR EDUCATION IS FAR FROM COMPLETE, KRO-TAN! NONE MAY CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF MING THE MERCILESS AND LIVE! THERE IS MUCH FOR YOU TO LEARN ABOUT THE WAYS OF VILLAINY... AND THE MEANS BY WHICH A TRUE LEADER ENSURES HIS RULE ABSOLUTE!

MEANWHILE...

THERE SHE IS--
IN MANDRAKE'S
CARRIAGE
HOUSE!



IT ALWAYS FEELS
GREAT TO GET
BEHIND THE CON-
TROLS OF THIS
OL' SHIP!



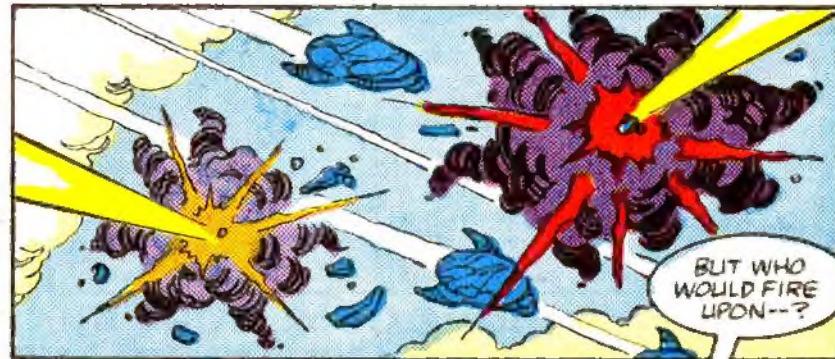
AND IT'LL BE GOOD TO
SEE MORBIUS AGAIN-- THERE
IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD
LIKE AN OLD FRIEND...

FROOSH

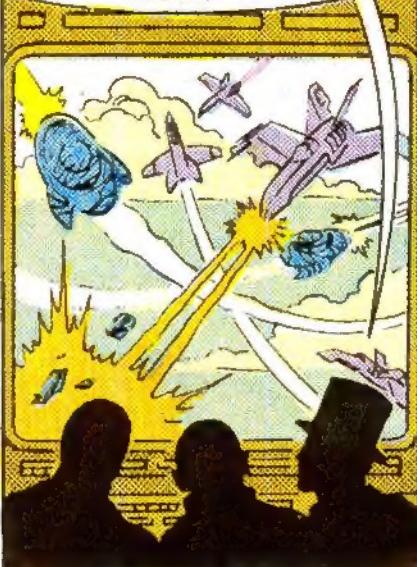
NOT TO MENTION THE
HELP THE CRYL WILL BE WITH
MONITOR! LOOKS LIKE THINGS
ARE STARTING TO SHAPE UP!

AND BACK IN MANDRAKE'S
BALLROOM, WHERE THE REST
OF THE DEFENDERS ARE
GATHERED BEFORE DYNAKX'S
SCREEN...

LOOK! THE CRYL
ARE BEING ATTACKED!

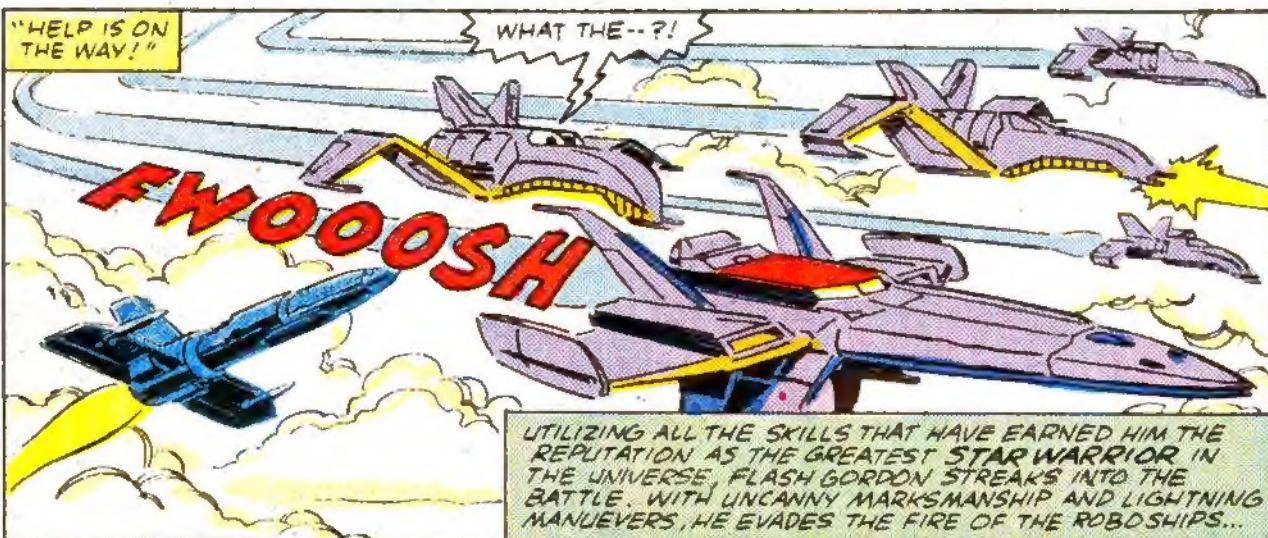


LUCKILY, THE CRYL WERE ON ALERT!



"HELP IS ON THE WAY!"

WHAT THE--?



UTILIZING ALL THE SKILLS THAT HAVE EARNED HIM THE REPUTATION AS THE GREATEST STAR WARRIOR IN THE UNIVERSE, FLASH GORDON STREAKS INTO THE BATTLE. WITH UNCANNY MARKSMANSHIP AND LIGHTNING MANEUVERS, HE EVADES THE FIRE OF THE ROBOSHIPS...

...WHILE HIS OWN ATTACK IS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE AGAINST MING'S FLEET OF ROBOSHIPS...

ELIMINATING GORDON ONCE AND FOR ALL WILL SECURE MY POSITION AT MING'S RIGHT HAND!

DO AS YOU WISH, FLASH GORDON! IT IS A TOKEN EFFORT AT BEST! YOU ARE HOPELESSLY OUT-NUMBERED! I HAVE YOU RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU!



HE MAY BE RIGHT! BUT...NO! THERE MUST BE A WAY FOR US TO TURN THIS CONFRONTATION TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

AND...

I MUST ACT QUICKLY!



EXACTLY! NOW QUIET DOWN, MY FRIEND. YOU KNOW I MUST CONCENTRATE TO USE MY POWERS OF ILLUSION!

MANDRAKE!



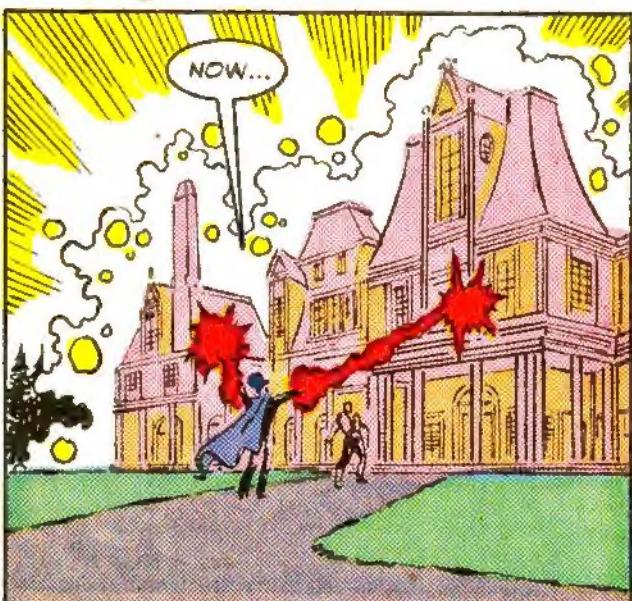
ENOUGH OF THIS--THE MOMENT IS CRUCIAL! THIS IS TOO SERIOUS A MATTER FOR YOU TO TREAT SO FRIVOLOUSLY.



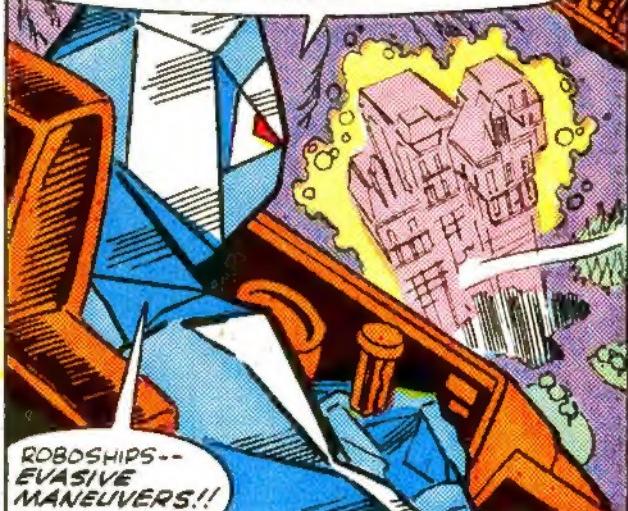
CAN YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE, KSHIN? I AM SORRY, I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS NOW! PLEASE-- FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU AND ZUFFY CAN STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!



NOW...

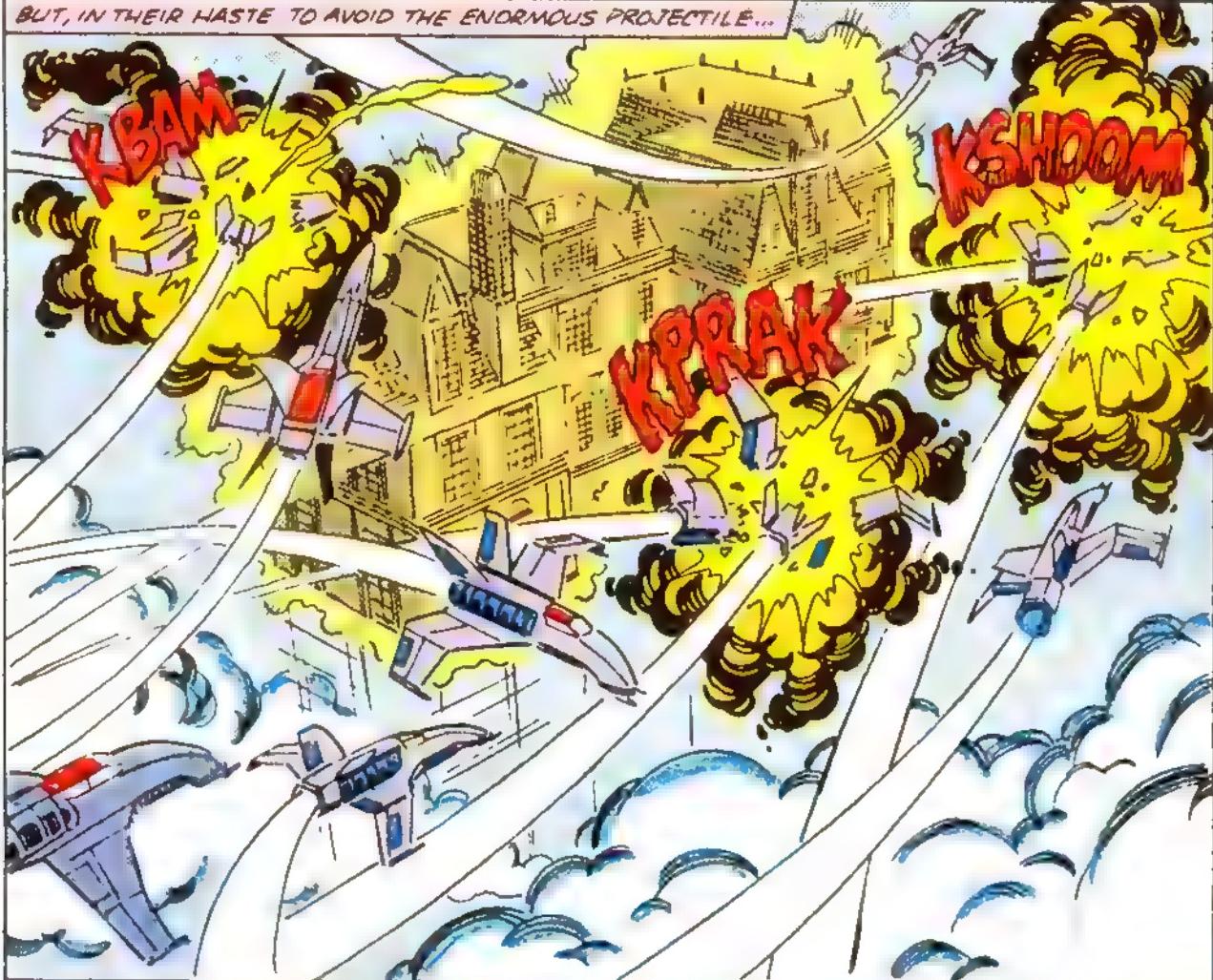


WH-WHAT IS HAPPENING?! IT CAN'T BE! THAT MANSION-- IT'S ROCKETING FOR US LIKE SOME SORT OF MISSILE!



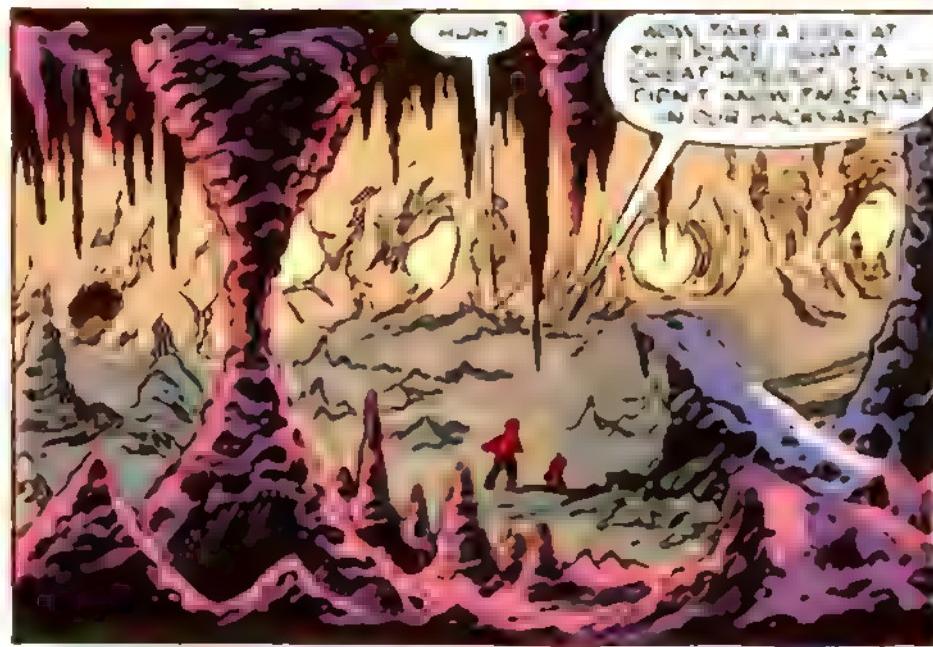
ROBOSHIPS--
EVASIVE
MANEUVERS!!

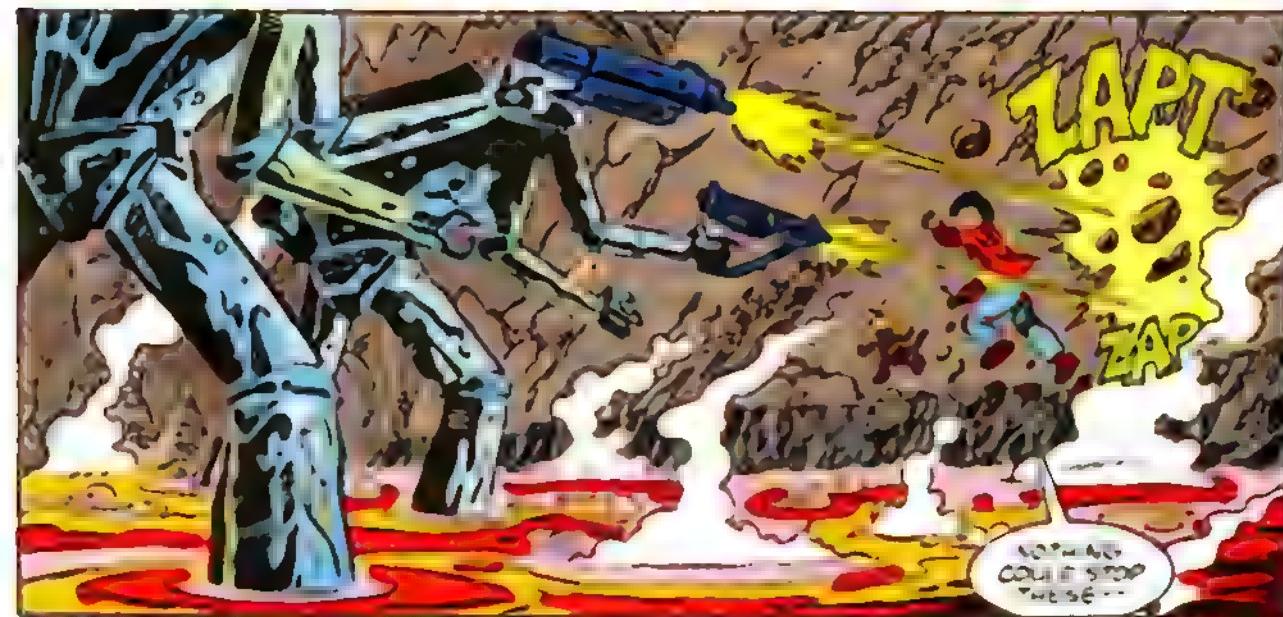
BUT, IN THEIR HASTE TO AVOID THE ENORMOUS PROJECTILE...

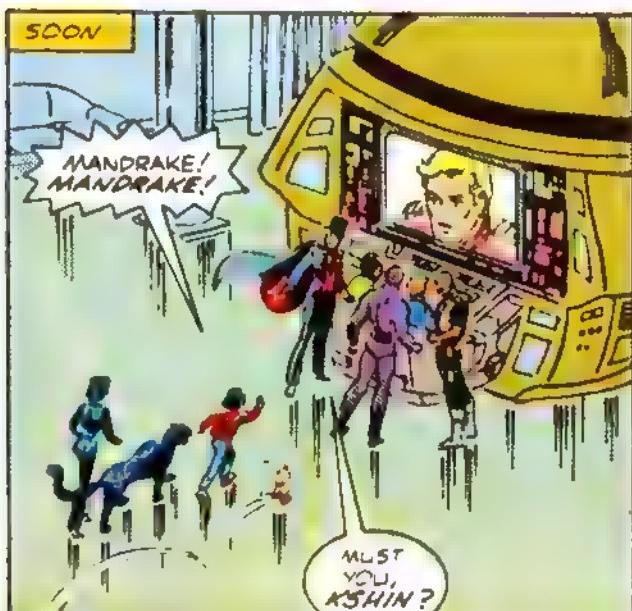




ALSO







NOW SEE HERE, MR. HIGH AND MIGHTY! WHAT KSHIN HAS TO SAY IS IMPORTANT, TOO! IF YOU DIDN'T JUST BRUSH HIM OFF ALL THE TIME YOU JUST MIGHT LEARN A THING OR TWO!



"BUT, FIRST, I WILL TAKE A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO SHIELD FLASH AND THE CRYL FROM THE EYES OF THE ENEMY!"



WHAT?



IMPOSSIBLE! WHERE HAVE THEY GONE? THEY CAN'T SIMPLY HAVE VANISHED!



FLASH IS THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOT A CHANCE TO SURVIVE AT THIS RATE...

WELL, GENTLEMEN, THIS IS IT! AND WE'RE IN THE CLEAR THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN WHO YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PERSONALLY IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS.

FIRST, MORBIUS, THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO DO

ALL YOU NEED DO IS ASK!

AS YOU WISH, MY FRIEND!

TA-KOOOSH!

WE'RE GOING TO NEED AN OPENING IN THIS MOUNTAIN--ONE THAT'S LARGE ENOUGH FOR OUR SHIP TO PASS THROUGH. WE CAN ACTUALLY USE THE INTERIOR AS A PLACE TO STORE OUR SHIPS--AND PERHAPS WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO CONSIDERABLY MORE HERE!

SHORTLY...

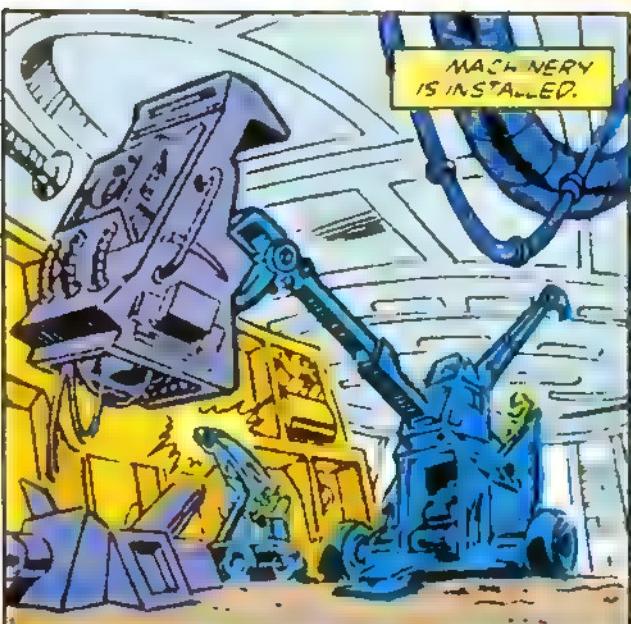
ACCORDING TO MY
SCANNERS THE MOUN-
TAIN CONTAINS A CA-
VERN VAST ENOUGH IN
WHICH TO BUILD AN
ENTIRE CITY.

ONE MOMENT, FLASH GORDON
THERE IS ADDITIONAL DATA WHICH
MAY ALTER YOUR PLANS THE
MOUNTAIN IS A VOLCANO - AND
IT IS NOT ENTIRELY EXTINCT

WAIT A MINUTE! WE MAY HAVE TO
ALTER THE PLANS - BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO GIVE
THEM UP! I HAVE AN IDEA!



AND, SO THE CONSTRUCTION OF MONITOR IS BEGUN. WORK THAT WOULD OTHERWISE TAKE MONTHS
IS COMPLETED IN A MATTER OF DAYS, THANKS TO THE SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY OF THE ALERE CYC



YOU SEE, KSHIN, EVEN THOUGH MRS. GORDON HAS PERISHED, HER SPIRIT WILL STILL BE A VITAL, THRIVING FORCE HERE AT MONITOR. IT IS ONLY FITTING.

IT WAS BRILLIANT OF RICK TO SUGGEST CAPPING THE ACTIVE SHAFT TO HARNESS THE GEO-THERMAL ENERGY OF THE VOLCANO AS A MEANS OF POWERING MONITOR. HE TURNED A POTENTIAL THREAT INTO AN ORGANIC SOLUTION TO OUR ENERGY PROBLEM!

WELL, IT WAS REALLY DYNAX WHO FIGURED OUT A WAY TO MAKE MY IDEA A REALITY. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT HER.

IT'S NICE TO SEE THAT THE GORDON FAMILY STILL WORKS SO WELL TOGETHER!

THE GORDON FAMILY...? GEE, IT'S SO HARD TO GET A GRIP ON EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING. MY MOTHER-- SHE'S .

I KNOW, SON... I KNOW!

RICK HAS SUFFERED A GREAT LOSS. I OUGHT TO KNOW IT MAKES MY OWN PROBLEMS SEEM SO INSIGNIFICANT.

I KNOW I HAVE MADE NEW FRIENDS.. BUT, I JUST DON'T FEEL RIGHT BEING HERE. MY HOME IS WITH THE JUNGLE BEASTS DEEP IN THE HEART OF AFRICA. THIS IS ALL SO FOREIGN TO ME. BUT MY FATHER HAS PROMISED TO STAY HERE WITH THE OTHERS TO HELP DEFEND THE EARTH... AND HE WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO RETURN TO AFRICA ALONE.

MEANWHILE... IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG! STILL YOU HAVE UNCOVERED NO SIGN OF THE INFERNAL DEFENDERS OR THEIR HIDEOUS, ALIEN COHORTS! I'M WARNING YOU-- MY PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN!

SIRE, WE STILL HAVE NOT SEEN ANY SIGN OF THEM. BUT I HAVE RECENTLY RECORDED MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY BEING USED IN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LOCATION WHERE THEY VANISHED. THEY MAY BE UTILIZING SOME FORM OF CLOAKING DEVICE



THEN WHY ARE YOU STANDING HERE WASTING TIME, GARAX?

THE ICE ROBOTS AND I WILL ATTACK, FIRING UPON THE ENTIRE AREA. THEN WE WILL BE CERTAIN TO HIT THEM.

I'M WARNING YOU, GARAX. THE INCOMPETENCE OF YOUR FLEET HAS COST ME ENOUGH ALREADY. I WILL NOT TOLERATE FAILURE THIS TIME!



AND BACK AT MONITOR

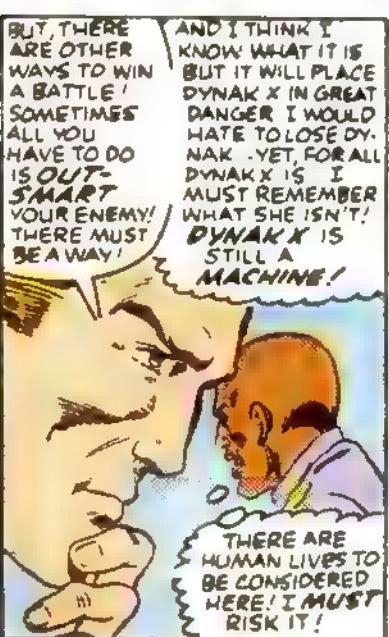
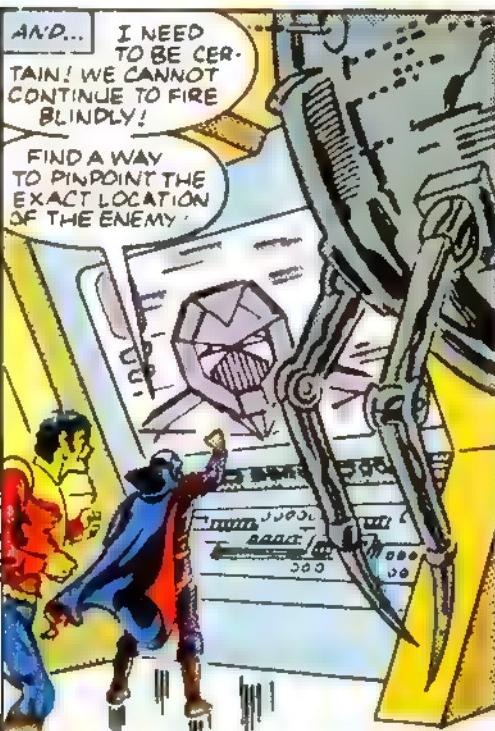
WE ARE ENTERING THE FINAL STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION ONCE THE CROWN IS FINISHED, IT WILL BE RAISED THROUGH AN OPENING WHICH WILL BE MADE AT THE TOP OF THE CRATER AND MONITOR WILL BE COMPLETE.

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO ASSIST YOU

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH MORBIUS!

BUT, OUTSIDE...

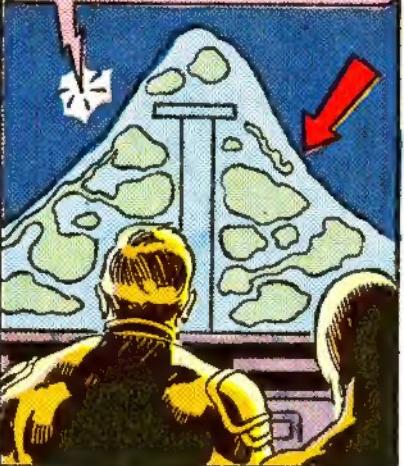




THIS IS A DIAGRAM SHOWING WHERE THE ATTACK HAS FRACTURED PART OF THE GEOTHERMAL CAP. PRESSURE IS BUILDING UP FROM THE LAVA AND STEAM -- THE SITUATION COULD PROVE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS!



BUT, AN EXPLOSION AT JUST THE RIGHT POINT-- SHOWN HERE-- WOULD NOT ONLY SOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT THE RELEASE OF STEAM AND LAVA WOULD CONVINCE MING THAT THE VOLCANO HAS ERUPTED! IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIMING!



I WILL PLACE THE BOMB IN THE APPROPRIATE CAVERN.
THIS OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.



I WILL SUMMON THE POWER OF TEN TIGERS FOR THE SPEED, AGILITY AND STRENGTH THAT THIS TASK WILL REQUIRE.



DYNAK BEGINS TO BROADCAST THE S.O.S. BEACON FROM THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN-- A BEACON WHICH DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED!

YOUR MAJESTY, WE ARE PICKING UP ON A DISTRESS SIGNAL. IT IS COMING FROM INSIDE THE TIP OF THE VOLCANO. WE CAN NOW CONCENTRATE OUR FIRE ON THAT SPOT AND ELIMINATE THE THREAT OF THE DEFENDERS ONCE AND FOR ALL!



THERE-- IT'S ALL SET!

GAVE MYSELF ENOUGH TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE-- BUT JUST BARELY! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO WASTE!

TIC TIC TIC



AND, OUTSIDE, THE ROBO-SHIPS CONVERGE TO BLAST TIP OF THE VOLCANO...

...JUST AS THE BOMB PLANTED BY THE PHANTOM EXPLODES!

AT LAST! WE'VE DONE IT!



IT WORKED! WITH OUR NEW SHIELDS UP THEY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WE WERE HERE! EVERYTHING WORKED OUT JUST RIGHT.



I'M AFRAID THAT ISN'T QUITE SO. LOOK AT THE CONDITION OF MY MANSION. IT'S A SHAMBLES! IT COULD TAKE YEARS TO RESTORE IT!



PERHAPS, MANDRAKE, IT IS TIME FOR US TO BEGIN LOOKING UPON MONITOR AS OUR HOME MORE THAN OUR HEADQUARTERS. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE LIVING HERE.



IT SEEMS THAT WHEN THE BOMB YOU PLANTED EXPLODED IT OPENED UP A RATHER LARGE CAVERN AREA--ONE IN WHICH JEDDA COULD CREATE A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT AND FEEL AT HOME.



AS A RESULT OF THE GEO-THERMIC TEMPERATURE, THE CLIMATE WILL NATURALLY SIMULATE THAT OF YOUR HOMELAND IN AFRICA.

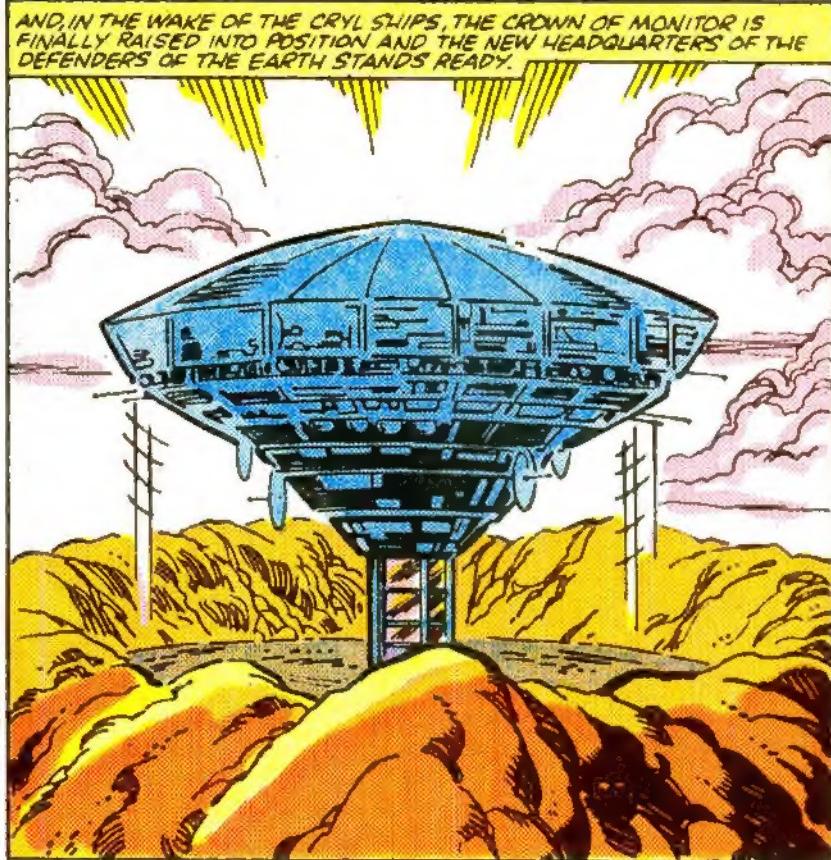


YOU SEE, JEDDA. YOU HAVE WHAT YOU WANTED.

THINGS SHOULD BE QUIET ENOUGH AROUND HERE--AT LEAST FOR A WHILE. AFTER ALL, MING THINKS WE'RE DEAD. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO START WORKING ON IT RIGHT AWAY!

FAREWELL, DEFENDERS!
MAY YOU LIVE LONG AND
PROSPEROUS LIVES!

AND, IN THE WAKE OF THE CRYL SHIPS, THE CROWN OF MONITOR IS
FINALLY RAISED INTO POSITION AND THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH STANDS READY.



A JOB WELL DONE! AND IF
YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING,
NOT A VERY TYPICAL GROUP
OF FRIENDS YOU HAVE
THERE!

WE'RE NOT A VERY TYPICAL GROUP, OURSELVES!
SO VERY, VERY TRUE!

THERE IS A
NEED FOR
MEN LIKE US
TO BE JOINED
TOGETHER--
TO STAND
STRONG
BEFORE ANY
FORCE THAT
WOULD
OPPOSE
US!



OUR JOB WILL NOT BE DONE UNTIL
THE EARTH IS NO LONGER THREAT-
ENED BY FORCES THAT WOULD
SUBJUGATE HUMANITY. LET US NOT
FORGET THAT MING IS STILL OUT
THERE. THERE CAN BE NO REST
UNTIL HE IS FINALLY ELIMINATED!
HE MUST BE DEFEATED!



THE TIME IS RIGHT! THE EARTH
IS MINE FOR THE TAKING!

